the Central Govt. employees) shall be entitled to the payment of Productivity Linked Bonus/ex-gratia as long as their emoluments do not exceed Rs. 3500 per month, as against the existing eligibility ceiling of Rs. 2500/- per month. A Special Leave Petition has been filed in the Supreme Court of India against the order of the Tribunal. The judgement of the Supreme Court on the petition is awaited.

Jammu and Kashmir State Finance Corporation Request for Waiving Off Interest

3696. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jammu & Kashmir State Finance Corporation (J&KSFC) has asked the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) for a moratorium upto two years in respect of repayment of the principal and waiving off the penal interest;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what is the amount of principal and penal interest involved;

(d) what are the reasons for which such a huge accumulated amount could not be recovered from the parties concerned; and

(e) what steps Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of dues of the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) from Jammu & Kashmir State Financial Corporation as on 31st July, 1993 are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

	IDBI	SIDBI
Principal dues	199.12	4793.00
Interest dues		342.00
Penal Interest		8.63
Additional Interest		8.73
TOTAL	199.12	5152.36

(d) and (e) Due to the prevailing disturbed conditions in the State of Jammu & Kashmir, many industrial units have closed down their operations rendering the investment made in these units unuseful and the loans taken unserviceable. JKSFC has cleared all its interest dues to IDBI upto July 31, 1993 and is in default in repayment of the principal dues. J&KSFC has also made request for deferment of payment of principal dues, interest, penal interest and additional interest on refinance. The same will be decided by IDBI/SIDBI on merits.

NRI Expert Group on Economic Reforms

@3697. SHRI G. G. SWELL:
SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:
SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRUTTINAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a group of NRI experts to study India's economic reforms, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the public distribution system would be scrapped and replaced by food stamps; and

@Previously unstarred quetion 3243 transferred from 19-8-93.

(c) whether necessary amendments on TRIPS under GATT would be made and in the interest of direct foreign investment restrictions on the consumer goods industry will be lifted for multinationals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir. Professor Jagdish Bhagwati, Arthur Lehman Professor of Economics and Professor of Political Science, Columbia University, New York and Professor T. N. Srinivasan, Professor of Economics, Yale University, New Haven, were invited to study the economic reforms underway and to make recommendations for future action. They have submitted their Report in July, 1993.

(b) and (c) The authors have not as such suggested scrapping of the Public Distribution System (PDS). They have recommended reforms in the PDS which should aim at improving its targetting of the poor. The system of Food Stamps has been suggested as one of the alternative ways of targetting the poor more effectively. They have also suggested a compromise in regard to the acceptance of intellectual property rules which according to them, should be treated as a minor cost of attracting direct foreign investment. The Government have published the report for public information and debate on the ongoing economic reforms to create wider awareness of the urgent issues which would need to be addressed as the reform process proceeds further.

Transfer of Staff in Nationalsied Banks

3698. MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN:

SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a surplus staff and top heavy administration in all the nationalised banks leading to concentration of staff in big urban centres;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not shifting to rural areas and small towns where trained staff is not adequately available; and

(c) whether it is a fact that transfers are made difficult by unions due to mutual rivalries and other considerations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) Public Sector Banks do have pockets of surplus staff particularly in certain metropolitan and urban branches while some branches in rural/semi-urban areas may not be adequately staffed. The banks provide the staff with reference to the business requirements at a branch.

All the public sector banks have been asked to draw a time bound programme to ensure that staff is re-deployed in deficit areas. However, for various reasons, which include in some cases, resistance from the unions due to mutual rivalries, it has not been possible to re-deploy staff from surplus pockets to deficit pockets in one stroke. As per the various awards/settlements governing the service conditions of the bank employees, the members of the award staff cannot be transferred from one language area to another language area. Restrictions have, however, been placed on staff growth to enable the banks, inter alia, to overcome the problems of surplus staff in certain pockets on the one hand and need for deployment of additional staff, so recruited, to be utilised (i) against wastages, (ii) for posting in the deficit areas and (iii) for new branches. As per the reports available with the Government, banks are implementing these instructions.

Corruption Charges against Officers of State Bank of Indore

3699. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many offcers of the rank of Assistant General Manager, General